



25-29 September 2011, Ávila, Spain

12<sup>th</sup> EEF Congress

<http://www.eefcongress2011.eu>

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# “Responding to Rapid Environmental Change”

## 12<sup>th</sup> European Ecological Federation Congress

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10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the  
Spanish Association for Terrestrial Ecology

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13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Ecological Society

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3<sup>rd</sup> Iberian Congress of Ecology



European Ecological Federation





Dear friends and colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> European Ecological Federation Congress (formerly EURECO) that will be held in Ávila (Spain) from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

On-line registration for delegates and Abstract submission will open on the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2011 at the website of the Congress in: <http://www.eefcongress2011.eu/>.

## Scientific Context

“**Responding to Rapid Environmental Change**” is the main topic of the 12<sup>th</sup> EEF Congress. The topic highlights the profound commitment of our scientific community to contribute with essential information about the global change process and, specially, to propose and test strategies to mitigate its negative effects. European ecology is concerned with this global crisis and it is leading the research effort at the world level. This Congress will give all of us an opportunity to share our work and to propose global models and strategies for our society. This Congress also aims to be a milestone in the definition of sustainable models and tools to minimize the effect of the global change and to fight against the loss of biodiversity.

Invited plenary speakers will give a comprehensive overview of their work, presenting information on the latest progress and challenges in their field of interest. The scientific agenda will also include a selection of keynote sessions coordinated by researchers from different European countries to provide exceptional overviews on hot ecological topics of broad interest. Numerous oral communications will combine with posters to stimulate exchange of information and ideas on the many fields of ecological research, and conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems. The official language of the Congress is English.

Our thanks to all scientists who accepted being involved in this adventure.

## Scientific preliminary program

### Plenary lectures

1. **Prof. Thorsten Wiegand**,  
Department of Ecological Modelling  
The Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Germany
2. **Prof. Terry Chapin**,  
Department of Biology and Wildlife  
Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA
3. **Prof. Jordi Bascompte**,  
Department of Integrative Ecology  
Doñana Biological Station, Spanish Research Council (CSIC), Spain
4. **Prof. Jane Memmott**,  
Ecological and Evolutionary Processes Group  
School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol, UK
5. **Dr. Jessica L. Green**,  
Center for Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Oregon, USA  
Santa Fe Institute, USA
6. **Prof. Georgina Mace**,  
Centre for Population Biology, Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)  
Imperial College London, UK

### Programmed Sessions

At this moment the programmed sessions are as follow:

1. Evolutionary ecology
2. Applied ecology
3. Population ecology and community ecology
4. Theoretical ecology
5. Functional ecology
6. Conservation ecology
7. Drivers of pollinator loss in Europe
8. Ecological models and their applications in forest management
9. Ecosystems evolution during early successional stages: how can we link pattern and processes for the understanding of ecosystem dynamics?
10. Applications of ecological models in biodiversity conservation and monitoring in a rapidly changing world



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11. Drought-induced forest dieback: causes, scope and implications
  12. Involving citizen scientists in ecology
  13. Ecological and ecotoxicological effects of oil spills and plastics in the marine environment
  14. Climate change, extreme events and alpine ecosystem responses
  15. Impacts of climate change mitigation measures on biodiversity and ecosystem services
  16. Mediterranean forests and global change
  17. The role of ectomycorrhizal communities in carbon cycling: new perspectives and emerging concepts
  18. Biodiversity and Ecological Services in Agricultural Systems
  19. Advances in eco-hydrology.
  20. Ecological Indicators of environmental change
  21. Cause-effect relationships in food webs
  22. Concepts in the center of ecological knowledge? Probing a reflexive tool in biological conservation, ecological model building and data collection
  23. Stable isotopes in ecological processes
  24. Trophic interactions and ecosystem functioning in real-world landscapes.
  25. Synthesizing community ecology, phylogenetics and macroecology
  26. Limitations to greenhouse gas assimilation across scales in a warming world
  27. Population ecological genetics and genomics
  28. Ecology and evolution of dispersal in a rapidly changing environment: from understanding to conservation strategies
  29. Surveillance and monitoring of habitats and species
  30. Ecological networks of mutualistic and antagonistic interactions: implications for conservation and restoration
  31. Impacts of global environmental change on the structure and functioning of dryland ecosystems
  32. Dryland restoration from ecotechnology to people
  33. Evolutionary history, ecosystem function, and conservation biology: new perspectives
  34. Recent stress ecology of soil invertebrates
- EU-Projects:**
35. Sharing and harmonizing long-term ecosystem research and monitoring across Europe: contributions and experiences from the EnvEurope Life + project and the LTER-Europe network in 21 countries.
  36. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning in the Context of Environmental Changes (session sponsored and coordinated by BACCARA EU project)



### Field trips (29<sup>th</sup> of September, one full day)

1. **Aranjuez Experimental Station and gypsum environments of the South of Madrid:** We will visit the semi-arid landscapes of the Aranjuez experimental station, where different experiments focusing on biological soil crusts and vascular plants are being carried out, as well as different gypsum outcrops and specialized vegetation with outstanding narrow endemics located in the south of the Madrid region.
2. **Sierra de Gredos:** This vast mountain range is the highest in central Spain, running through the provinces of Ávila, Salamanca and Cáceres. A Regional Natural Park is situated in the southern part of the province of Ávila and encompasses the highest altitudes of the mountains (above 2500 m.a.s.l) with high mountain Mediterranean landscapes. The Gredos mountains have been also designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) and is part of Red Natura 2000, offering a good opportunity to encounter a variety of soaring birds of prey overhead and also Spanish Ibex (*Capra pyrenaica*), which is particularly abundant and very easy to see in this area.
3. **Sierra de Guadarrama:** A mountain range forming the eastern half of the Sistema Central at the centre of the Iberian Peninsula and located between the Sierra de Gredos in the province of Ávila, and Sierra de Ayllón in the province of Guadalajara. These mountains constitute some of the region's most spectacular landscapes with a high diversity of flowers and animals of great ecological value, a treeline consisting of stunted Scottish pines (*Pinus sylvestris*) and relict juniper forests (*Juniperus thurifera*) in the piedmont.
4. **Tiétar Valley:** Placed in the south of Gredos Mountains, this large valley is crossed by River Tiétar and surrounded by "dehesas" of holm oaks, Mediterranean *Pinus* woodland and grassland, cork oaks and a complete panoplia of Mediterranean communities. This is an important site for endangered breeding raptors and *Ciconia nigra*.

## General information

Detailed and updated information is available at: <http://www.eefcongress2011.eu/>

**Venue:** Strolling unhurriedly along the winding streets of the walled city of Ávila is a magical exercise. The UNESCO declared this place a World Heritage Site and a "land of songs and saints", Ávila is an international platform for preserving an unique walled perimeter in whose interior time has been stopped for four centuries in favour of History and Art -outstanding churches and convents built in the Romanesque period, and Renaissance symbols as palaces and mansions of the Castilian nobility, etc. It is the Spanish provincial capital sited at the highest altitude, 1130 metres above sea level, but also one of those with higher average of hours of sunshine per year. Have the virtual tour at: [http://www.avila.es/tour\\_virtual/](http://www.avila.es/tour_virtual/)

A guided visit of Ávila city for delegates is included in the Conference Fees.



The Congress will be held at the Lienzo Norte Conferences and Exhibition Centre. Have the virtual tour at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0Jf3rb3yQA>

**Accommodation:** Participants are kindly asked to book their own accommodation. We will provide a form on the Congress website to allow you to make the necessary arrangements.

## Important dates

On-line registration open for delegates	15 <sup>th</sup> February
Call for abstract contributions	15 <sup>th</sup> February
Deadline for abstract submission	30 <sup>th</sup> April
End of early registration	30 <sup>th</sup> April
Late registration time	From 1 <sup>st</sup> May
Notification of abstract acceptance	15 <sup>th</sup> June
Final Programme	31 <sup>th</sup> July

## Conference Fees

Status	Early registration	Late registration
Regular member of a national ecological society joined to the EEF (See: <a href="http://www.europeanecology.org/membership/">http://www.europeanecology.org/membership/</a> )	250 €	325 €
Regular non-member	300 €	375 €
Student member of a national ecological society joined to the EEF (See: <a href="http://www.europeanecology.org/membership/">http://www.europeanecology.org/membership/</a> )	125 €	175 €
Student non-member	175 €	225 €



The conference fee for regular participants and students gives access to the following conference activities, social events and benefits:

- Attendance of ceremonies (inauguration, EEF Ecological Awards, closing act)
- Access to whole scientific programme (sessions, workshops, poster exhibitions)
- Congress bag
- Abstract book (USB pen-drive)
- Coffee, tea and refreshments for the break times.
- Wine reception
- Conference dinner (an additional and specific fee of 25 € per person is requested)
- A guided tour of Ávila city.

## Funding information

It is envisaged that some of the National Ecological Societies federated into the EEF will offer financial assistance for students to attend the meeting. For further information please contact your respective National Society.

Become a member of your National Ecological Society! The National Ecological Societies are an important platform for ecologists to showcase themselves to the public. Moreover, membership of a National Ecological Society can convey numerous other benefits, such access to working groups, academic journals and bulletins, symposia volumes, mailing lists, newsletters, information on job opportunities and discounts from a variety of publishers, workshops, meetings for scientists and other activities. Students especially should consider it, as this could provide a great opportunity to push forward their career.

You can find information on national societies here: <http://www.europeanecology.org/>

## The 12<sup>th</sup> EEF Congress and Sustainability

The organisers think that today, more than ever, the ecological community has got the liability and the obligation of showcasing best practices and therefore the 12<sup>th</sup> EEF Congress is being organized as a responsible and sustainable event.

Working closely with sustainable event experts of MCI Group\*, this Congress will be organized following the most rigorous process available in Sustainable Event Management System. A sustainability report will be produced in alignment with the Global Reporting Initiative highlighting the sustainability approach, performance, and impacts. We also want to use the Congress to spark sustainable development in the local tourism and meetings industry and leave a long term legacy.

Additionally, all participants will be encouraged to offset their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through the purchase of Standard Certified Emission Reductions and Standard Verified Emission Reductions.

\*[http://www.mci-group.com/Capabilities/sustainability\\_services.aspx](http://www.mci-group.com/Capabilities/sustainability_services.aspx)